

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) A method of providing an interface for graphically displaying information, comprising:

displaying information regarding a source material and a set of secondary materials on a graphical user interface;

determining a selection of information based on a user input;

analyzing the source material, the set of secondary materials, and the selection of information in a manner that yields relational information between the source material or one or more secondary materials and at least one of the selection of information or the information regarding the source materials; and

updating the display of information regarding the source material and the set of secondary materials via change in graphical indicia on a virtual board such that one or more representations of information relating to at least one of the source material or the secondary materials are capable of arrangement as a function of~~based on~~ the relational information.

6. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the updating step highlights a particular set of secondary materials, so as to bring the particular set of the secondary materials to the attention of the user.

7. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the displaying step includes displaying a representation of objects of the source material in a first area and displaying representations of objects of the second materials in a second area.

8. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the updating step rearranges the locations of the representations of the objects of the secondary materials.

9. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of:

linking the first area and the second area so that a user input to either area will effect the display in the other area.

10-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) An interface for graphically displaying information, comprising:

a display that displays information regarding a source material and a set of secondary materials;

a user interface that determines a selection of information using a user input and performs an analysis based on the source material, the set of secondary materials, and the selection of information, wherein the analysis yields relational information between the source material or one or more secondary materials and at least one of the selection of information or the information regarding the source materials; and

a controller that instructs the display of information regarding the source material and set of secondary materials to be updated via change in graphical indicia on a virtual board such that one or more representations of information relating to at least one of the source material or the secondary materials are capable of arrangement as a function of~~based on~~ the relational information.

15. (Previously presented) The interface according to claim 14, wherein the display includes a first area that displays a representation of objects of the source material and second area that displays representations of objects in the second material.

16. (Previously presented) The interface according to claim 15, wherein the controller instructs the display to rearrange the locations of the representations of the objects of the secondary materials.

17. (Previously presented) The interface according to claim 15, wherein the controller links the first area and the second area so that a user input to either area will effect the display in the other area.

18-23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer to perform a method for providing an interface for graphically displaying information, comprising:

displaying information regarding a source material and set of secondary materials;

determining a selection of information based on a user input;

analyzing the source material, the set of secondary materials, and the selection of information in a manner that yields relational information between the source material or one or more secondary materials and at least one of the selection of information or the information regarding the source materials; and

updating the display of information regarding the source material and set of secondary materials via change in graphical indicia on a virtual board such that one or more representations of information relating to at least one of the source material or the secondary materials are capable of arrangement as a function of~~based on~~ the relational information.

25. (New) A method of producing a storage medium that provides information related to a source material, comprising the steps of:

gathering features of the source material;

accessing secondary materials related to the features;

gathering features of the secondary materials;
determining attributes of the gathered materials, wherein the source material, the features of the source material, the secondary materials, the feature of the secondary materials, and the attributes of the gathered materials are characterized as objects of the storage medium;
analyzing the attributes based on a characteristic; and
generating an extended document capable of variable electronic dissemination as a function of the analysis, wherein the storage medium includes relational information between the objects of the storage medium that is adapted to be graphically depicted on a user interface.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the relational information includes a database of linkages between the objects of the storage medium.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the hierarchy of the linkage database of the extended document is adapted to be displayed via graphical indicia.

28. (New) The method of claims 25, wherein the extended document is adapted to be displayed via graphical indicia such that selection of a desired relational quality by the user causes the display to graphically indicate which objects or content shares the same relation with the source material.

29. (New) The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of recommending secondary materials based on a selection of relational information by a user.

30. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein a citation matrix is derived from the database of linkages between the objects and the storage medium.

31. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein a cocitation matrix is derived from the database of linkages between the objects and the storage medium.

32. (New) The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of performing a spreading activation procedure to provide information from the storage medium for inclusion into the extended document.

33. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein a spreading activation procedure is executed to provide information from the storage medium, the spreading activation procedure providing information as a function of user-provided relational information.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the relational information is specified as a certain level of relationship between the provided information and the source material.

35. (New) A method of producing a storage medium that provides information related to a source material, comprising the steps of:

- gathering features of the source material;
- accessing secondary materials related to the features;
- determining attributes of the secondary materials, wherein the source material, the features of the source material, the secondary materials, and the attributes of the secondary materials can be objects of the storage medium;
- creating a matrix that indicates relationships between each secondary material or attribute and one or both of the source material or the feature of the source material; and
- generating an extended document, the extended document including information related to the source material and a database of linkages between the objects of the storage medium.

36. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the relational information related to the source material is determined as a function of a spreading activation procedure.

37. (New) The method of claim 35 wherein the extended document is provided as a function of similarity between the information related to the source material and the source material.

38. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the similarity is determined based on the level of relationship between the provided information and the source material.

39. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the spreading activation procedure is executed is a function of the level of relationship between the provided information and the source material.

40. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the information related to the source material includes relational information between the source material or one or more of the secondary materials and at least one of the gathered features, the determined attributes or the predetermined characteristic, and wherein the relational information is used in the provision of the information contained within the storage medium.